

## **DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE 16-2002**

### **(Food Stamps)**

**TO:** County Directors of Social Services

**ATTENTION:** Food Stamp Supervisors

**SUBJECT:** Policy on Pension Plans as Resources

### **EFFECTIVE**

**DATE:** Upon Receipt

### **1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The purpose of this letter is to provide a policy change based on a recent interpretation received from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The change involves the exclusion of most pension plans as resources.

### **II. POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

The only pension plans in which the cash value is considered a resource are Keogh Plans and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's).

Exclude all other pension plans from resources regardless of whether the person is currently employed. All of the following types of pension plans are excluded as a resource:

- 401(K) Plans;
- 403(B) Plans;
- 457 Plans;
- 501(C)(18);
- Federal Employee Thrift Savings Plan; **and**
- Simplified Employer Pension (SEP) Plans.

### **III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Apply the above policy and procedures to all food stamp applications, recertifications, and changes in situation. This information will be added to the Food Stamp Certification Manual as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact your Program Integrity Representative.

Sincerely,

Wilbert R. Morris, Chief

Economic Independence Section

WRM/RRM/bh